Schemes for handicapped persons in Jammu and Kashmir

4609. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons at present in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) whether any rehabilitation schemes have been initiated by Government;

(c) if so, the funds allocated for these schemes during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide special assistance to ease the hardships faced by the handicapped in daily walks of life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) According to the report received in the year 2002 from the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the number of persons with disabilities in different age groups in Jammu & Kashmir is 14,041.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The amount released to the States under the following schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities is given below :

Rs. in Lakhs

Scheme	Year		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	6213.10	6081.91	7553.70
Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances.	2910.74	4357.60	5700.00

1	2	3	4
National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD)*	5551.95	4361.20	Nil

*The Scheme has since been transferred to States/Union Territories from the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(d) (i) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work, *inter-alia* towards, manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(ii) The Government has taken initiatives for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. One hundred and thirty districts have been identified for setting up District Centres with the objective of providing rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to

expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities set up in 2000 extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians. For educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in seats for persons with disabilities in all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government and 3% reservation of identified posts in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings.

Plan for economic empowerment of the least privileged

4610. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) has prepared a strategic plan (2003-2012) for economic empowerment of the least privileged;

(b) if so, the main features of the plan; and

(c) by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of NSFDC's Strategic Plan (2003-12) include :

(i) Planning coverage of 1.47 lakh beneficiaries in the first 5 years and 6.25 lakhs during the next.

(ii) Planning increase in the proportion of micro-credit financing from the present level of 18% to 25% by the 5th Year and 40% by the 10th.

(iii) Planning more Skilled Training and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for the target-group (i.e. @ 80 per year).